

Report of Documentation of Project Progress Quarterly basis (Q3-Y2) (Milestone No.54)

Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation Program



Prepared by

Mandwi

“Empowering Women”

Gaur Municipality, Rautahat

Ph. No. 977-55-520824

October-December, 2015

19/5/2016

Table of Contents

1. Report Verification	3
2. Background	4
3. Political/Security Context Update.....	5
4. Challenges/Actions	5
5. Accomplishments.....	7
6. Lessons Learned.....	15
7. Success Story	15
8. Next Quarter Plan	15
9. Summary Performance Indicator Data.....	16
10. Other APS Requirements.....	19
Annex	22
List of Milestone Reports and Dates Delivered to USAID	22
Snaps	23

Abbreviations

CMCM	Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation
CMC	Community Mediation Center
CMCC	Community Mediation Coordination Committee
CFWA	Community Family Welfare Association
IEC	Information, Education Communication
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PNGO	Partner Non-Governmental Organization
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RBA	Rapid Based Assessment
SWC	Social Welfare Council
SLMM	Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha
VCDC	Village Community Development Center
VDC	Village Development Committee
WAP	WAP
YAP	Youth Advocacy Platform

1. Report Verification

M#	Milestone	Description	Means of Verification
54	Documentation of Project Progress Quarterly basis (Q3-Y2)	Quarterly information in the form of Calendar updates, Reports, and Meetings, conducted that track Project Activities and overall progress	<p>USAID's receipt of a quarterly progress report – due within 30 days of the last day of reporting quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pages: 4-5 •Content: political/security context update, progress on OCA (Organizational Capacity Assessment), challenges, accomplishments, lessons learned, success stories, next quarter plan, summary performance indicator data •Annex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ list of Milestone reports and dates delivered to USAID in that quarter ○ updated M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) indicator data

2. Background

Mandwi is implementing “Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation (CMCM)” program with the support of USAID in Dhanusha, Mahottari, Siraha, Saptari, Sarlahi and Rautahat districts. The local project-implementing partners are Save the Saptari, Samagra Jana Utthan Kendra (All Peoples Improvement Center), Community Family Welfare Association (CFWA), Aastha Nepal, Village Community Development Center (VCDC) and Community Power. The program targets poor and marginalized people from the community to achieve the goal of sustain peaceful environment in the community with local level conflict mitigated. The main objectives of the program are to improve mediation services to marginalized community people, increase participation of youth and women in local government planning and peace building processes, increase community awareness on conflict management and mitigation.

Mandwi received the project agreement from Social Welfare Council (SWC). It established its CMCM project office at Gaur, Rautahat in one of the project districts. Sub award agreements signed with the six local partner non-government organizations (PNGOs) from implementing districts. After rapid based assessment (RBA), 4 VDCs in each district and 24 village development committees (VDCs) in total finalized.

Mandwi selected 36 (female 12, Dalit 4 and Janajati 2) masters’ trainers from the project districts and provided training on basic community mediation for 8 days. Furthermore, it mobilized the trained masters’ trainer in the selection process of community mediators. The 648 (female 263, Dalit 100, Janjati 100 and Muslims 29) (27 per VDCs in 24 project VDCs) community mediators were selected and trained by the masters’ trainers. For increasing access of marginalized community people, 24 Community Mediation Centers (CMCs) were established at VDC offices with basic equipment (board, furniture, stationeries, bios of mediators etc) support. Those centers are currently offering the mediation services to the local people.

In addition to the community mediation services, advocacy platforms for both women and youth established to increase the participation of youth and women in the process of community mediation, local resources mobilization, and planning processes. Moreover, as awareness campaign, Mandwi has developed Information, Education Communication (IEC) materials i.e. brochure and pamphlets with the information on community mediation related services, benefits, mediation centers and contact persons. These IEC materials distributed in the project VDCs through PNGOs, mediation centers, community mediators, Youth Advocacy Platform (YAP), Women Advocacy Platform (WAP) and local level other institutions. With the technical support of Mandwi, PNGOs developed radio program script and Public Service Announcement (PSA) on community mediation including in local language Maithili and Bajjika as an outreach to the mediation centers.

It helps to sensitize community people on community mediation and increase their access to mediation centers to resolve the local level disputes at local level. Finally, it helps to reduce

the load of the court as well as administration offices and create peaceful environment and social harmony in the entire community.

3. Political/Security Context Update

There are many changes in the position of political context underway in this reporting period. The first initiation was taken by the Government of Nepal to address the demands of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) on December 21. The three-point package consists of constitutional amendments on participation in the state organs based on proportionate inclusiveness and delineation of electoral constituencies, population, and geography. Demarcation of provinces was to be undertaken in a three-month period through a political mechanism based on consensus, and other demands-including those pertaining to “citizenship”-are to be resolved through negotiation and appropriate notification.

Similarly, all Nepali political forces now to prove thematurity and flexibility so that a resolution to the current crisis could be found. After that, an informal easing of supplies, particularly fuel and LPG (liquid petroleum gas), by using border-crossing points other than the Raxaul-Birgunj crossing which remains blocked. It was observed that the fuel supplies were going through legally, in addition to the cross-border smuggling activity, which has also picked up. However, the SLMM rejected the government’s three-point package as “inadequate” and declared that it fell far short of their 11-point charter of demands.

Despite of the ease of supply situation government needs to offer a healing hand to the Madhesis to get them on board. If he fails, he may find it difficult to deal with the ensuing instability. The Madhesis needed to reach out to the Tharus and Janajati, the other marginalized groups.

In this way after the normalization of the situation in Nepal and in terai districts as well, our CMCM program activities likewise CMCC (community mediation coordination committee) review, YAP, WAP review, community mediators review (those were postponed since 4-5 months due to the frequent strikes and agitation in terai) are on progress. Our local project-implementing partners are coordinating with district and VDC stakeholders easily and moving in the field too for the implementation of the program.

4. Challenges/Actions

Challenges	Actions taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation and monitoring of planned program activities (CMCC review meeting, Radio program year 2 productions and broadcasting, community mediation sharing meeting, YAP/WAP review, community mediation project is assumed by local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular coordination, encouragement, and motivation to CMCC at district level, community mediators, YAP and WAP members and VDC by district project coordinators of local project implementing partners at local level.

<p>government and video documentary production) affected due to long strike and agitation in Terai.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mediators are facing problem in handling group conflict (lack of skill). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mediators are facilitated by local project implementing partners for handling the group conflicts however; the capacity building training is needed.
--	--

5. Accomplishments

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
Administration Start-up		
Activities Office Established in one of the project districts (Milestone 1) Mandwi Capacity Assessed (Milestone 2) Partnership Established (Milestone 3) Partners' Capacity Assessed (Milestone 4) Partners' Training Prepared (Milestone 5) Partner Training Conducted (Milestone 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved planned for Q1 • Achieved planned for Q1 • Achieved planned for Q1 • Achieved planned for Q2 • Achieved planned for Q1 • Achieved planned for Q2 	
Program Start-up and Coordination Phase		
Activities Rapid Baseline Assessment Conducted (Milestone 7) Government of Nepal Coordination Established and VDCs selected (Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved planned for Q1 • Achieved planned for Q2 	

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
<p>8)</p> <p>District Level Community Mediation Coordination Committee formed in each District (Milestone 9)</p> <p>CMCC Year 1 Review and Development of CMCC Year 2 District Level Action Plans (Milestone 10)</p> <p>Year 2(Q1&Q2)CMCC Mid-term Progress Review (Milestone 11)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievedplanned for Q3 • It is completed by Community Power in Rautahat and Aastha Nepal in Mahotari only. It is remaining to be accomplished in other four districts i.e. Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, and Sarlahi by local project implementing partners. • Due to the regular strikes in Terai since a long time, it has not achieved yet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the carry over activity of Q4-Y1. It will be accomplished and reported in next quarter. • Though, CMCC year review and development of CMCC year 2 district level action plans has not been accomplished yet, this activity is re planned for Q8-Y2.
Outputs		
1. Improved mediation services to marginalized community people		
Activities		
<p>Select 36 MasterTrainers (Milestone 14)</p> <p>MasterTrainers' TrainingPrepared (Milestone 15)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievedplanned for Q2 • Achievedplanned for Q2 	

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
MasterTrainers Trained (Milestone 16)	• Achievedplanned for Q2	
CommunityMediatorsSelected (Milestone 17)	• Achievedplanned for Q2	
CommunityMediation TrainingPrepared (Milestone 18)	• Achievedplanned for Q2	
CommunityMediators Trained(A) (Milestone 19)	• Achievedplanned for Q3	
CommunityMediators Trained(B) (Milestone 20)	• Achievedplanned for Q3	
Mediation Centers establishedin 12 VDCs in 3 Districts(A) (Milestone 21)	• Achievedplanned for Q3	
Mediation Centers establishedin 12 VDCs in 3 Districts(B) (Milestone 22)	• Achievedplanned for Q3	
CMCs Offer Services (Milestone 23)	• Achievedplanned for Q4	
CMCs Offer Services (Milestone 24)		
CMCs Offer Services (Milestone 25)	• Achievedplanned for Q5	
CMCsOfferServices (Milestone 26)	• Achievedplanned for Q6	

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
24 Community Mediation Year 1 Sharing Meetings Conducted (Milestone 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In quarter seven (Q7)-October-December, 2015, total 196 cases were registered in 19 CMCs. Out of 196, 163 cases related with male and 33 cases related with women. 19.9 percent of cases were registered from dalit community, 6.6 percent from Janjati and 4 percent from Muslim. There were maximum cases related with boundary of land, fighting, abuse, pastureland, and money transaction, and interpersonal conflict. Out of 196 cases, 182 cases were resolved successfully (For details see Milestone report 26 also). • Not achieved yet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the regular strikes in Terai since a long time, it has not achieved yet. It is the carry over activities of Q5-Y2. It will be achieved in Q8.
2. Increased participation of youth and women in local government planning and peace building processes		
Activities 24 Community Mediation Sharing Meetings Conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mediation sharing/review meeting with community mediators organized by local project implementing partners in all 24 project VDCs in May 2015. Before that, they discussed about the preparation of community mediation review meeting in a staff meeting in April 2015. The agenda discussed in the review meeting were opening session with welcome, chairing, introduction, technical session with progress on community mediation, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the carry over activity of Q5-Y2 accomplished in this quarter and will be reported in next quarter.

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
<p>24 VDC YAPs Established and Action Plans Developed (Milestone 33)</p> <p>24 VDC WAPs Established and Action Plans Developed (Milestone 35)</p>	<p>case registration, nature of case, settlement, in process, referral, strategies applied, contribution of YAP and WAP, IEC (Information education Communication) materials, peace building community mediation program, VDC, problems faced and lesson learned, future direction and closing session etc. They also discussed on the continuation of the community mediation program and its linkages with VDC in the day to come. Finally, they also collected feedback in the review meeting with community mediators for the further improvements in the community mediation services to the community people and developed a future plan before the closing the sharing meeting(For details see milestone report 30 also).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievedplanned for Q4 • Achievedplanned for Q4 	
<p>3. Increased community awareness on conflict management and mitigation</p>		
<p>Activities</p> <p>Year 1 Radio Program produced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievedplanned for Q3 	

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
Education, and Communication (IEC) materials designed (Milestone 44) Community Mediation IEC produced and distributed in Local Languages (Milestone 45)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved planned for Q 	
4. Institutional capacity of Mandwi along with its local partners strengthened		
Monitoring and Evaluation		
Activities M&E Framework drafted and Staffs and Project Partners Training Prepared (Milestone 46) M&E framework established and Staff and Project Partners trained (Milestone 47)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved planned for Q1 CMCM project M&E framework finalized and established at Mandwi with the regular and close coordination and technical support from USAID. Mandwi organized staff and project partners training on M&E Framework at Hotel Manaki, Janakpurdham, Dhanusha from 12-14 July 2015 under Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation Program after the finalization of log frame and PMP in a given format by USAID. The main objective of the training was to build up the capacity of partner organizations and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the carryover activity of Q2 Y1 finalized in this reporting period.

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
<p>Documentation of Quarterly Project Progress(Q1-Y 1) (Milestone 48)</p> <p>Documentation of Quarterly Project Progress(Q1-Y 2) (Milestone 49)</p> <p>Documentation of Quarterly Project Progress(Q1-Y 3) (Milestone 50)</p> <p>Documentation of Annual Project Progress(Year1) (Milestone 51)</p> <p>Documentation of Annual Project Progress(Q1-Year2) (Milestone 52)</p> <p>Documentation of Annual Project Progress(Year1) (Milestone 53)</p>	<p>staffs on monitoring and evaluation system of the organization and established at PNGOs also(For details please see milestone report 47)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved planned for Q2 Achieved planned for Q3 Achieved planned for Q4 Achieved planned for Q4 Achieved planned for Q6 <p>Achieved planned for Q7 (For details please see milestone report 53)</p>	

6. Lessons Learned

- Restoration of good relationship between disputing parties via CMC is key to maintain serving in social cohesion and peace building that was evidentiary during the six months long agitation in terai.
- Mobilization of WAPs at the community to motivate, convince, and encourage women to come for registering the cases of violence against women and increased their access to justice.

7. Success Story

Mandwi has been implementing its conflict mitigation through community mediation program since March 2014 to date in 24 project VDCs of 6 Terai districts i.e. Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat with the local project implementing partners Save the Saptari, SAMAGRA, community family welfare association, Aastha Nepal, village community development committee and community power. The project aimed to sustain peaceful environment in the community.

As we are all familiar about the 6 months long, general strikes from August 2015-January 2016 and agitation by Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha in Terai, it affected the program in all six-program districts resulting not being able to carry out any project activities.

However, Mandwi started to increase coordination with local project implementing partner and facilitated them for the maximum mobilization of CMCs, community mediators, youth, and WAPs for community mediation, social harmony, and peace building processes at local level. Similarly, community mediation coordination committee mobilized at district level for maintaining social cohesion at district level. They facilitated meetings and encouraged people about social cohesion. Mandwi takes credit of the sustained peaceful environment in those project areas due to messaging the social harmony.

Finally, as a result, CMCs started operating smoothly during October-December, 2015. In total 196 cases were registered.

8. Next Quarter Plan

Some major tasks that are included in next quarter plan are as follows:

Carry over activities

- CMCC Year 1 Review and Development of CMCC Year 2 District Level Action Plans (Milestone 10)
- Year 2(Q1&Q2)CMCC Mid-term Progress Review (Milestone 11)
- 24 Community Mediation Year 1 Sharing Meetings Conducted (Milestone 30)
- Community Mediation Video Documentary Produced (Milestone 42)

Planned activities

- CMCC Year 2 Review and Development of CMCC Year 3 Action and Sustainability Plans (Milestone 12)
- CMCs Offer Services (Milestone 27)
- All 24 YAPs each hold Progress Review Meeting (Milestone 34)
- All 24 WAPs each hold Progress Review Meeting (Milestone 36)
- Year 2 Radio Programs Broadcasted (Milestone 41)
- Community Mediation Video Documentary Units copied and distributed at the District and VDC level (Milestone 43)
- Documentation of Project Progress Quarterly basis (Q3-Y2) (Milestone 54)
- Monthly calendar submitted for Year 2 (Milestone 59)
- Participation in Quarterly CMMPartners Meeting in Year 2 (Milestone 62)

9. Summary Performance Indicator Data

S.N.	Indicator	Target for 2015	Result	Contributing Factors
1	% change in conflicts stemming from issues of inclusion and access	57%	55%	Awareness of community people increased and they are living together in the community with social harmony in peaceful environment.
2	% change in target population that perceives a reduction in conflicts over resources stemming from issues of inclusion and access	74%	86%	Access of marginalized community people increased to the CMCs. The local level disputes resolved by community mediators at local level.
3	Number of successfully mediated local level disputes among women, youth or people from marginalized groups as a result of USG assistance	NA	598 including women 114, dalit 131, janajati 62, Muslim 19	Disputes facilitated by the trained community mediators adopting 7 steps of community mediation

S.N.	Indicator	Target for 2015	Result	Contributing Factors
4	% change in target population that perceive conflicts mitigated	26%	33%	The maximum number of local level disputes resolved by community mediators at local level
5	# of conflict issues identified in the working VDCs with an objective of addressing those conflicts	900 including women 306, dalit 183, janajati 147, Muslim 110	682 including women 122, dalit 144, janajati 69, Muslim 22	With the mobilization of community mediators, youth and WAPs and in coordination with concerned VDC
6	% of established mediations centers continued by local government at project close	NA	NA	
7	# of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of conflict	54(CMCC-6, CMC-24, YAP-24)	78 (CMCC-6, CMC-24, YAP-24, WAP-24)	Functional and regular coordination by PNGOs with VDCs, district line agencies and stakeholders like Bar Association, District Administration Office, and district court etc
8	# of local women participating in a substantive role or positions in a peace building process supported with USG assistance	316	479	Facilitation of local project implementing partners on importance of participation of women and their mobilization for their rights to community stakeholders and VDCs
9	# of advocacy platforms established and functional	48	48 (YAP-24, YAP-24)	Functional and regular coordination by community mediator coordinator with VDCs, and local

S.N.	Indicator	Target for 2015	Result	Contributing Factors
				stakeholders like youth and women etc
10	% of annual VDC budget allocated to community mediation and marginalized community	NA	NA	
11	Number of people from marginalized groups participating in a substantive role or position in a peace building process supported with USG assistance	NA	71	Facilitation of local project implementing partners on importance of participation of marginalized groups and their mobilization for their rights to community stakeholders and VDCs
12	Number of host national inhabitants reached through USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful resolution of conflicts	12000	24500	IEC materials like brochure and pamphlets production and distribution as well as community mediation program designed, produced and broadcasting in local languages i.e. Maithili and Bajjika.
13	Number of stories disseminated with USG support to facilitate the advancement of reconciliation or peace processes	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 (Radio program, jingle production) 	Radio program, jingle production, and broadcasted in local languages i.e. Maithili and Bajjika.
14	#of USG-funded events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale	30	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCA-1 • MTOT (Mater Training of Trainers) - 1 • Basic 	Master Trainers mobilized by PNGOs in respected districts Functional and regular coordination by PNGOs with VDCs, district line

S.N.	Indicator	Target for 2015	Result	Contributing Factors
			Mediation Training - 24 • CMCC Formation-1 • CMCC Review-1 • Advocacy Platform Meeting-1 • Project partners trained on ME-1	agencies and stakeholders like Bar Association, District Administration Office, and district court etc Strictly follow the selection criteria of community mediators and focus on gender and inclusion, people to people and do no harm strategies
15	• Percentage change in average Local Organizational Capacity Assessment Score among local organizations supported by USAID (CBLD)	NA	NA	

10. Other APS Requirements

• People to People

In the beginning, it was observed that the participation of women was insignificant because male were facilitating the local level disputes even related with women; violence against women. After that, the CMCM program focused on the significant role of the women, their compulsory participation at all level of community development planning, implementation and decision-making processes through series of meetings and interactions in the field. Finally, the program became able to empower women through its program activities likewise Women Advocacy Platforms formation and mobilization, ensuring their significant participation in program activities like community mediators, Youth Advocacy Platforms etc. As a result, trust of the community people over the significant role of women has been increased now in the program area. People are selecting voluntarily with their own interest female community mediators to resolve women and gender-based violence related disputes . The female mediators are not only selected for women related cases, but also other disputes

as well because 100% cases related with female were lead by female community mediators while they mediated 20% of other cases as well to date. Previously, community people bound to go to resolve their dispute to the police and other agency. The dispute resolved by those institutions did not support to reform their relationship because there was absence of win-win situation. However, community mediation services provided by female community mediators to women with win-win approach is helping in reforming the relationship in the family and community these days led to build the social harmony.

- **Do No Harm**

Mobilization of WAP, YAP, members, community mediators at community level and CMCC members at district level helped in reconstruction of relationship, establishing social harmony, and peace building processes at the local level even in special cases like protest in Terai region.

- **Gender & Social Inclusion**

CMCM program has mobilized WAPs members in the community at the optimum level to disseminate CMC related information and increase awareness on community mediation services. Further, it motivates community women to register the cases of violence against women. Furthermore, they mobilized to increase their access to CMCs for the resolution of gender and women violence related disputes (28% women related cases registered and resolved).

Similarly, due to the mobilization of YAP and WAP access of the marginalized community to mediation services increased 21% cases were from dalit, 10% cases from Janjati and 3% cases from Muslim registered at mediation centers and resolved (87.7%).

- **Local Engagement & Sustainability**

Participation of local level institution likewise community mediators, WAP, YAP and VDC has been increased in the community mediation program; they are empowered, mobilized and taking a lead role and ownership of community mediation program at VDC level (ensured 35% of female participation through different program activities).

Maximum participation of women ensured in local level planning and decision-making processes by CMCM program. Therefore, they are advocating at VDC level for local resource mobilization VDC targeted group (women, youth, children, dalit) resources for their rights and entitlements as well as community mediation (91000 of VDC budget utilized for capacity building training of WAPs members on community mediation).

- **Coordination**

Mandwi frequently coordinated with the local project-implementing partners to review the project status in terms implementation of program activities during the regular strikes in Terai and agitation by Madhesi Morcha. Mandwi also facilitated and encouraged all CMCM staffs

(including partner level) to keep regular coordination with CMCC and district line agencies at district level and community mediators, YAP, WAP members and VDC secretary at VDC level to continue good relationship to establish social harmony, peaceful environment at the local level even in special cases like protest in Terai these days.

Furthermore, project coordinators facilitated VDC coordinator to coordinate with concerned VDC secretaries to mainstreaming mediation centers in local government. It was observed that there were very less case come to the CMCs in reference to police and court therefore VDC coordinator facilitated to coordinate with local police office and CMCC members to coordinate with court.

Annex**List of Milestone Reports and Dates Delivered to USAID**

S.N.	Milestone Report	Date Delivered to USAID
1	Milestone 23	19 October 2015
2	Milestone 24	19 October 2015
3	Milestone 25	19 October 2015
4	Milestone 38	19 October 2015
5	Milestone 39	19 October 2015

Snap



Mediation session facilitated by community mediators at Badharba, Rautahat



District level meeting with CMCC on community mediation at Siraha



Relationship improved after dispute resolution between Ram Jinis Mahato and Sonelal Mahato, Bathnaha VDC-4 of Mahottari district



Meeting with YAP and YAP for social harmony and peaceful process in the community, VDC pachrukhi, Rautahat